

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-30. (Cancelled).

31. (Currently amended): An image read-out method of obtaining an image signal bearing thereon image information by use of a stimuable phosphor sheet having a layer of stimuable phosphor which emits stimulated emission in proportion to the stored energy of radiation upon exposure to stimulating light and a solid image sensor having a photoconductive material layer which exhibits electric conductivity upon exposure to the stimulated emission from the stimuable phosphor sheet and by scanning with stimulating light a stimuable phosphor sheet which has been exposed to radiation and has stored thereon an image, causing the photoconductive material layer to be exposed to stimulated emission emitted from the stimuable phosphor sheet upon exposure to the stimulating light, and detecting electric charges generated in the photoconductive material layer upon exposure to the stimulated emission by applying an electric field to the photoconductive material layer, wherein the improvement comprises the steps of using a solid image sensor whose photoconductive material layer also exhibits electric conductivity upon exposure to recording light bearing thereon image information (~~e.g., the radiation passing through the object~~) or momentary light emitted from the stimuable phosphor layer upon exposure to the recording light,

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projecting the recording light onto the stimuable phosphor sheet while applying an electric field to the photoconductive material layer, and

detecting charges generated in the photoconductive material layer when the recording light or the momentary light impinges upon the photoconductive material layer, thereby obtaining a preliminary read-out image signal bearing thereon image information, wherein

a solid image sensor in which a pair of electrode layers are provided on opposite sides of the photoconductive material layer and the electrode of one of the electrode layers is divided into a stripe electrode comprising a plurality of line electrode elements arranged in a row be used, and

electric charges generated in the photoconductive material layer when the recording light or the momentary light impinges upon the photoconductive material layer are detected by line electrode elements of said one electrode layer, and

wherein a solid image sensor in which the electrode of the other electrode layer is also divided into a stripe electrode comprising a plurality of line electrode elements arranged in a row, each extending to intersect the line electrode elements of said one electrode layer is used, and

electric charges generated in the photoconductive material layer when the recording light or the momentary light impinges upon the photoconductive material layer is detected also by line electrode elements of said the other electrode layer.

[[42]] 32. (Currently Amended (number designation) and Cancelled):

33. (Cancelled)

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34. (Currently amended): An image read-out system comprising a stimulating light source which emits stimulating light,

a stimulating light scanning means which causes the stimulating light emitted from the stimulating light source to scan a stimuable phosphor sheet having a layer of stimuable phosphor which emits stimulated emission in proportion to the stored energy of radiation upon exposure to the stimulating light,

a solid image sensor having a photoconductive material layer which exhibits electric conductivity upon exposure to the stimulated emission from the stimuable phosphor sheet,

an electric voltage imparting means which imparts an electric voltage to the photoconductive material layer of the solid image sensor to apply an electric field to the photoconductive material layer, and

an image signal obtaining means which detects electric charges generated in the photoconductive material layer of the solid image sensor when the stimuable phosphor sheet is exposed to the stimulating light and stimulated emission emitted from the stimuable phosphor sheet impinges upon the photoconductive material with an electric field applied to the photoconductive material layer, and detects an image signal representing an image stored on the stimuable phosphor sheet, wherein the improvement comprises that

the photoconductive material layer of the solid image sensor also exhibits electric conductivity upon exposure to recording light bearing thereon image information or momentary light emitted from the stimuable phosphor layer upon exposure to the recording light, and

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there is provided a preliminary read-out image signal obtaining means which obtains a preliminary read-out image signal bearing thereon image information by detecting charges recording light or the momentary light impinges upon the photoconductive material layer, wherein

the solid image sensor is provided with a pair of electrode layers on opposite sides of the photoconductive material layer, each having an electrode,

the electrode of one of the electrode layers is divided into a stripe electrode comprising a plurality of line electrode elements arranged in a row, and

the preliminary read-out image signal obtaining means detects electric charges generated in the photoconductive material layer when the recording light or the momentary light impinges upon the photoconductive material layer by line electrode elements of said one electrode layer,
and

the electrode of the other electrode layer is also divided into a stripe electrode comprising a plurality of line electrode elements arranged in a row, each extending to intersect the line electrode elements of said one electrode layer, and

the preliminary read-out image signal obtaining means detects electric charges generated in the photoconductive material layer when the recording light or the momentary light impinges upon the photoconductive material layer be detected also by line electrode elements of said the other electrode layer.

35. (Cancelled):

36. (Cancelled):

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37.-58 (Cancelled).

59 (New). An image readout method as defined Claim 31, wherein:

said stimuable phosphor sheet has a layer of stimuable phosphor which is stimulated by stimulating light in a wavelength range of not shorter than 600nm and emits stimulated emission in a wavelength range of not longer than 500nm,

said solid image sensor has a photoconductive material layer whose major component is a-Se,

wherein said electric field generates an avalanche amplification effect in the photoconductive material layer, and detecting electrical charges generated in the photoconductive material layer occurs simultaneously with the avalanche effect.